

FISCAL NOTE

SB 575 - HB 744

March 9, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the state Forestry Division to regulate open-air fires and require a permit for burning any time of the year within 500 feet of forest, grasslands, or woodlands or within 200 feet of occupied buildings. Removes the ability to issue burn permits from local governments.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$837,000

Decrease Local Govt. Revenues – Less than \$100,000

Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures – Not Significant

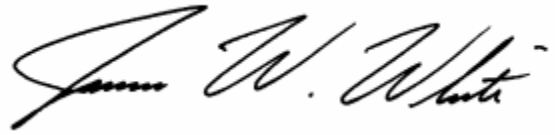
Assumptions:

- An increase in state expenditures to move 68 currently part-time permit issuance positions to full-time positions in order to handle the increase in permits. Such increase is estimated to be \$837,000 and is based upon the additional salary requirement of moving these positions full-time plus additional retirement and FICA benefits plus medical insurance (which these employees do not currently receive).
- Local governments will experience a decrease in revenues due to not being able to collect permit fees which they currently receive. Such decrease is estimated to be less than \$100,000.
- A decrease in local government expenditures for not having to issue burn permits. Such decrease is estimated to be not significant.
- According to the Division of Forestry, enactment of this bill will not result in additional enforcement costs.
- The provisions of the bill will not allow local governments to issue “pollution permits” if the sole basis for the issuance of the permit is to regulate burning.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director